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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,785	02/05/2002	Jonathan Michael Allen	ROC920010291US1	9028

7590 12/08/2004

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EXAMINER

AMIN, NIRAV S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2115

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,785

Applicant(s)

ALLEN ET AL.

Examiner

Nirav S Amin

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,12,22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11,13-21 and 23-25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02/05/2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/05/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 12, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olson et al (US Patent No. 6,484,222) herein after referred to as Olson in view of Yeh (US Patent No. 6,275,950).

Olson teaches the claimed invention comprising:

A bridge (75);

A first bus coupled to the bridge (85);

A clock generator [(77), Column 5, lines 9-11];

Olson does not teach a first multiplexer coupled to the clock generator.

Yeh teaches a multiplexer (401) coupled to the clock generator, wherein the multiplexer is configured to pass one of four clock signals from the clock generator to the PCI slot [Column 2, lines 33-34] to regulate the clock signals of the chipset on the PCI add-on cards to be synchronous to the computer signals of the system chipset so that the add-on cards match the PCI slots [Column 1, lines 44-47]. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a multiplexer as taught by Yeh in the invention taught by Olson.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 8, 13, 18, 23 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 2 and 13, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the bridge is configured to receive from the clock generator a third clock signal which is in phase with and at a same frequency as the first clock signal.

Regarding claim 4, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the multiplexer is configured to receive a select signal from the bridge.

Regarding claims 8 and 18, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a second bus coupled to the bridge.

Regarding claim 23, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest each of the buses is a secondary PCI bus and a secondary PCI-X bus.

Regarding claim 24, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the bridge comprises a PLL circuit which is configured to receive a third clock signal from the clock generator which is in phase with and at a same frequency as the first clock signal.

Conclusion

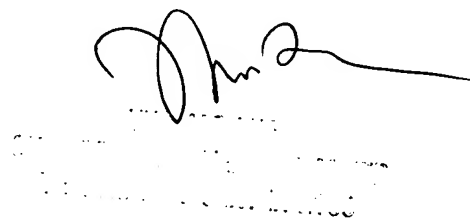
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nirav S Amin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3821. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on (571) 272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NSA

A handwritten signature in black ink is positioned above a rectangular official stamp. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Nirav S. Amin'. The stamp contains text that is mostly illegible due to blurring, but it likely contains the name of the examiner and their title.